

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 11th, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Warsaw Recreation Center, 309 Memorial Drive. Meetings have been temporarily relocated due to COVID-19.

**Board Members Present:**

Mayor AJ Connors  
Commissioner Russell Eason  
Commissioner Scotty Smith  
Commissioner Jack Hawes  
Commissioner Valerie Pope

**Also Present:**

Town Manager, Scotty Summerlin  
Police Captain, Patrick Giddeons  
Public Works Director, Craig Armstrong  
Town Attorney, Jene Thompson  
Deputy Town Clerk, Carmen Gonzalez

**Absent:**

Commissioner Dr. Owen Martin

**Public: 2**

Mayor AJ Connors opened with prayer and proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance following the opening prayer.

**Consent Agenda:**

Mayor AJ Connors asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Jack Hawes made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the following consent agenda items: (A) Approval of minutes from December 14, 2020 meeting (B) Tax releases for Prayer of Faith Evangelistic Church and (C) Budget amendment #10 – tap & connection for a proposed business expansion.

**Public Comments:**

No Public Comments

**Regular Agenda:**

Item #3 on the regular agenda was the Oath of Office for Interim Police Chief Patrick Giddeons. Upon the retirement announcement of Chief Southerland, Captain Giddeons has been asked and agreed to serve as Chief of Police in an interim capacity. Giddeons will serve as Interim Chief until such time as a permanent Chief is selected. Mayor Connors administered the Oath of Office for Interim Chief Patrick Giddeons.

Item #4 on the regular agenda was the selection of a Muralist for Town of Warsaw 2021 Mural Project. The Board asked to review the submittals of Muralists and select the candidate deemed most capable to perform the work of the upcoming project. The mural is anticipated to be created and painted on the previously identified building face by Summer 2021. The building wall faces south along NC Hwy 24W. Manager Summerlin informed the Board that the Request for Qualifications resulted in no

complete submittals. The manager will work with a Mural Committee to select the best muralist to complete the work.

Item #5 on the regular agenda was the discussion on Pershing Street rental roof replacement and Budget Amendment #11. The Board discussed options to replace or repair the leaking roof at a town owned rental property located at 115 Pershing Street. The Board was given details on both options. Manager recommended using the 2021 prepaid rent funds to go towards replacement of the rubber roof. Current tenant Hawes' Funeral Home expressed interest in the rubber top roof being replaced with a similar roof because the funeral home has interest in purchasing the property and replacing the roof with an A frame roof and carport at a later date. Commissioner Jack Hawes, as owner of Hawes' Funeral Home, recused himself of a vote on this matter. Commissioner Pope made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 11, in an amount of \$21,000.00 and authorized the town manager and public works director to oversee the project. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Item #6 on the regular agenda was the Town of Warsaw Development Incentive Program application submitted by SCOTTY'S R.E.R.F.,LLC. The subject Parcel Number is 01-1091 and includes 2701 and 2703 W NC 24 Hwy. SCOTTY'S R.E.R.F.,LLC requests a tax reimbursement incentive per the Town's Development Incentive Program. The program provides for tax incentives on property improvements which increase property values by 20% or more. Improvements increase the tax value of the property, in turn causing the owner of the property to be penalized for taking on such improvements by way of a higher tax bill. An existing vacant building is proposed for improvements for a Jersey Mike's sub shop. The building was formerly a Subway that has been vacant since 2019. Currently the building is assessed at \$806,100.00 and will increase by \$300,000.00 with the improvements. As the improvements are estimated to be above \$250,000.00, the tax Incentive program provides for three years of property tax reimbursements for the increased values only. Manager recommended approval. Commissioner Valerie Pope made a motion to approve the application for the Incentive Program. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion for approval. Vote was unanimous to approve the Town of Warsaw Development Incentive Program application for SCOTTY'S R.E.R.F.,LLC, located at 2701 W NC 24 Hwy.

Item #7 on the regular agenda was to schedule a 2021-2022 budget work session #1. After a brief discussion the Board agreed on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 6:00pm. A location will be determined at a later time. Commissioner Pope made a motion to accept the date and time of the first budget meeting. Commissioner Russell Eason seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to schedule the first budget meeting for Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 6:00pm.

### **Manager's Update:**

Town Manager Scotty Summerlin thanked his co-workers for all of their dedication and hard work. Town Manager stated that the paving contract had been delayed. Manager Summerlin informed the Commissioners that citizens from the Elm Street and Dogwood

Drive community had provided numerous verbal complaints of speeders in the area. A suggestion was made that a petition might be necessary to gauge interest in changing the speed from 35mph to 25mph. Currently, the community has no posted speed limit signs. The Police Department was able to substantiate that excessive speeding does take place in the area and that 35mph was too fast for such a densely populated community. With that information provided, Commissioner Pope made a motion to change the speed limit from 35mph to 25mph. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous to change the speed limit along Dogwood Drive from 35mph to 25mph. Town staff will provide a grace period to publish notice of the change, post new speed limit signs and begin the build-up to full enforcement of the change.

**Mayor's Update:**

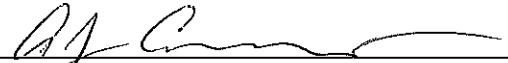
Mayor Connors recommended that the Board of Commissioners meeting be moved to 6 p.m. from 7 p.m. for a trial period of 2 months. Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to move the meeting time from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. for a 2-month trial period. Commissioner Valerie Pope seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to move the Board of Commissioners meeting time from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. for the months of February and March.

**Board Members Comments:**

- 1) Commissioner Russell Eason stated that Serendipity was now open for business.
- 2) Commissioner Valerie Pope thanked everyone for the condolences she received on the passing of her sister.
- 3) Commissioner Jack Hawes thanked the Warsaw Police Department for their courteous and professional service in directing the funeral processions.
- 4) Commissioner Scotty Smith no comment.

At 8:00 p.m. Mayor Connors called for a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Valerie Pope made a motion to go into close session. Commissioner Russell Eason seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to go into closed session.

At 8:24 p.m. Mayor Connors called for a motion to go back into regular session and adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to go back into regular session and adjourn. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to go back into regular session and adjourn.

  
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A.J. Connors, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Carmen Gonzalez, Deputy Town Clerk